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ELEMENTS DRAWN FROM THE VARIOUS POLITICAL ARRANGEMENTS COVERED IN THE PAPER PREPARED BY A CONSULTANT WHICH MAY BE RELEVANT TO THE EAST TIMOR SITUATION

1. Different political, historical and social circumstances dictate that no one autonomy model examined in the paper is directly appropriate for or should be replicated in East Timor. There are, however, several core essentials that all the successful autonomy or self-government models share and that it would be desirable to include in any political arrangement for East Timor. These include the following:

- [Complete] cultural autonomy, especially in matters relating to education, language and culture. This has been the case, for example, with the Aaland Islands and Puerto Rico.

- The establishment of a local police force, dependent from and reporting to the local government, is also a key ingredient as shown in the cases of Hong Kong, Macau, Catalonia and Nevis.

- A local independent judiciary, with or without appeals to the central judicial appeal courts.

- A local administration headed by an executive either directly elected by the voters or by the local parliament and responsible to it.

- An elected legislature from which members of the local executive will, in parliamentary systems, be drawn.

- While issues relating to defence are the responsibility of the central government, the role of the military forces is limited to the preservation of the territorial integrity of the state and defence from external attack. It does not include intervention in local affairs and only in certain exceptional circumstances does it include assistance in the maintenance of public order or in disaster relief in the autonomous region.

- Though foreign relations are the prerogative of the central government, there are examples, such as Hong Kong, Macau or Aaland Islands, where the autonomous or self-governing area is able to participate in international agreements, organizations and conferences not limited to States on matters relating to trade, culture, finance and other non-political matters.

- An element of financial autonomy including the right to levy direct or indirect taxes is also an essential ingredient.

- A mechanism, domestic and/or international, to ensure that the autonomous or self-governing status of the territory is not unilaterally altered.

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